

STATE SENATOR • GILDA Z. JACOBS • 14TH DISTRICT

# Jacobs Press Release

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## **JACOBS' OFFERS PATIENT PROTECTION LEGISLATION**

### ***Bill will require mandatory minimums for nurse-to-patient ratios***

(LANSING)—State Senator Gilda Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods) introduced legislation this week that will improve the quality of care in Michigan hospitals. Jacobs' bill will require hospitals to meet mandatory minimum nurse-to-patient ratios across all units.

"Low staffing levels are compromising patient safety in our hospitals," said Jacobs at a press conference on Thursday. "Recent national studies indicate that understaffing is a contributing factor in higher accidental patient deaths and injuries in hospitals. We need to assure that there are enough nurses available to provide the high quality care every patient deserves."

Jacobs' bill calls for hospitals to develop and maintain yearly staffing plans based on projections of need within each hospital unit and insure that appropriate nurse-to-patient ratios are maintained. Nursing care needs will be based on the severity of the illnesses, the need for specialized equipment and technology, the intensity of nursing interventions required, and the complexity of the clinical judgment needed to design, implement, and evaluate a patient care plan.

"The nursing shortages we are currently experiencing in our hospitals are not simply the result of a lack of qualified nurses," said Jacobs. "Recent efforts to increase enrollment in nursing programs around the state have been successful. Our hospitals are short staffed because nurses are being spread too thin and are not able to provide the high quality of care they are trained to deliver. These working conditions create high turnover among nurses who simply want to provide the level of care each patient requires and deserves."

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Jacobs' bill is part of three bill package sponsored by both Senate and House Democrats.

State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, and Southfield. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

**Editor's Note: Sen. Jacobs' most recent photo is available for download at the following link: <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/dem/Graphics/pressphotos/SD14JacobsPortrait.jpg>**

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